(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A committee of experts from Indian Air Force (IAF) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was constituted in May 2002 to define system configuration, its role and broad operational requirements.

Suggestions of Kargil Review Committee

2073. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) under the Chairmanship of security expert K. Subramaniyam has suggested amalgamation and pooling of various Service Intelligence organizations to ensure synergy between the three armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the above suggestion of KRC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Kargil Review Committee (KRC), while highlighting the lack of an effective institutionalised mechanism for coordination/interaction between the intelligence agencies and users at different levels, *inter alia* recommended examination of the working of the intelligence system and also observed that the issue of setting up of an integrated Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) needs examination.

(c) Accordingly, a Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted by the Government on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The Report of the GoM on "Reforming the National Security System" was accepted by Government, a Defence Intelligence Agency was set up in February 2002 under the Integrated Defence Staff. The Intelligence Agency acts as the Coordinator of the intelligence organizations of all the three Services.

Networking in naval forces

2074. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether networking in naval forces has been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Navy has established various networks and can exchange information between the networked units/stations.

Joint armed services doctrine

2075. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint armed services doctrine is under way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, it will be in place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the study of military history, principles of war, combat leadership and application of military power in the Indian scenario, a Joint armed services doctrine broadly covering strategic and military aspects is being formulated by the Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS), in consultation with the three Services, with a view to synergize the capabilities of the three Services into an effective force.

(c) No time limit can be fixed in view of the need for extensive inter-Service and inter-ministerial consultations.

Conclave of ex-chiefs

2076. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first ever conclave of ex-chiefs was held recently and if so, what was the purpose thereof;

(b) whether it will help the Army to improve in any manner; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Government did not organize a conference of ex-Army Chiefs. However, the Army Headquarters did organize this conference at which non-classified subjects related to organizational, administrative and welfare aspects were discussed.